

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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The Departments of State, Interior and the Army jointly announced today that a conservation program for the Japanese fishing industry, developed by General MacArthur's headquarters, is progressing toward eliminating the basis of objections on the part of some nations to the return of Japanese fishing fleets to some portions of their pre-war fishing areas.

The program being carried on under General MacArthur as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, calls for the Japanese to maintain surveillance over fishing and other aquatic operations to eliminate excessive exploitation, to collect and analyze statistical information relating to aquatic life and to disseminate such information to other interested nations. It also calls for the Japanese to cooperate with other nations in the use of common fishing grounds, and to observe the customary fishing habits of other nations using the same areas.

Japanese fishing since the end of the war has not been authorized outside certain areas, generally in the vicinity of Japan and eastward to the 165th meridian. Japanese fishing operations prior to World War II did not always observe internationally accepted practices, particularly regarding conservation of resources.

The conservation of open-ocean and near-shore resources has been a concern of the SCAP organization from almost the day the occupation began. Progress has already been made in the reorganization and redirection of research for this purpose as well as in making the Japanese conscious of proper fishery conservation methods. The United States considers it important, however, that Japan continue and intensify this program in order to supply in these fields of activity specific assurance of Japanese wish and intention to participate in world affairs in a responsible manner.

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